

AVENGERS vs X-men®

MARVEL

VS

ROUND 9

AARON
KUBERT
DELL
MARTIN

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AVX

ROUND 9

THE PHOENIX FORCE HAS BEEN FRAGMENTED, WITH PORTIONS INHABITING FIVE PROMINENT X-MEN: CYCLOPS, EMMA FROST, COLOSSUS, MAGIK AND NAMOR. THEY HAVE USED THAT POWER TO RESHAPE THE WORLD FOR THE BETTER, BUT THE ALL-CONSUMING NATURE OF THE PHOENIX FORCE STILL THREATENS TO CORRUPT THEM.

THE AVENGERS HAVE TURNED TO HOPE, THE PHOENIX FORCE'S INTENDED HOST, IN AN EFFORT TO MANAGE THE COSMIC FORCE. CYCLOPS, FRUSTRATED AT THE AVENGERS' ATTEMPTS TO INTERCEDE AND DISRUPT HIS PLANS, BEGAN A WORLDWIDE MANHUNT TO LOCATE EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HEROES AND TAKE THEM OFF THE BOARD.

NAMOR, HAVING LEARNED OF THE AVENGERS' HIDEOUT IN WAKANDA, LAUNCHED A MASSIVE ATTACK IN AN ATTEMPT TO PERMANENTLY ELIMINATE THE TEAM OF HEROES. THE AVENGERS CAME AT NAMOR WITH EVERYTHING THEY COULD MUSTER AND DEFEATED THE ATLANTEAN KING. HOWEVER, AS NAMOR FELL, HIS PORTION OF THE PHOENIX FORCE WAS DIVIDED UP BETWEEN THE REMAINING MEMBERS OF THE PHOENIX FIVE, INCREASING THEIR POWER. THE AVENGERS HAVE NOW ALL FALLEN BACK TO THE MYSTICAL CITY OF K'UN LUN, WHERE THEY INTEND TO PREPARE HOPE FOR THE DANGEROUS FIGHT AHEAD.



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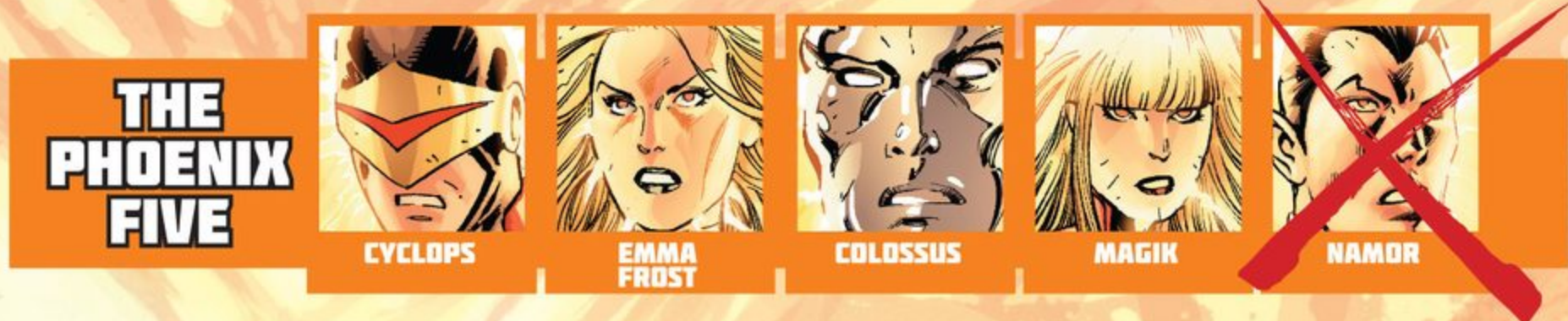
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AVENGERS



X-MEN

SEVENTEEN HOURS FROM NOW.

FEEL STICKY. WHY
AM I SO STICKY?

IS THIS...?

THIS IS
BLOOD.

STAY
DOWN.

WHERE DID
ALL THIS BLOOD
COME FROM?

I SAID...

STAY
DOWN.

SOMEONE'S HURT.
BLEEDING. SOMEONE
NEEDS HELP. WHO...

AFRAID
I...

CAN'T DO
THAT.

YOU
WILL.

OH, WAIT... NOW
I REMEMBER...

WHETHER
YOU WANT
TO OR
NOT.

IT'S MY
BLOO--

KRRRAK

**NOW,
THE MYSTICAL CITY
OF K'UN LUN.**

IT'S BEEN EIGHT DAYS
SINCE THE FALL OF
WAKANDA. EIGHT DAYS
SINCE WE CAME HERE
WITH OUR TAIL BETWEEN
OUR LEGS.

AND EVERY DAY SINCE,
IT'S ONLY GOTTEN WORSE.

IT'S GOTTEN SO THAT EVERY TIME I HEAR THAT MYSTICAL
PORTAL START TO OPEN, MY HEART SINKS.

I HAVEN'T CRACKED A JOKE IN WEEKS.
THERE'S JUST NOTHING FUNNY ABOUT
THE END OF THE WORLD.

OH, NO. OH, NO.
MAN, HERE THEY
COME.

DON'T BE SO
GLOOMY. YOU ACT
LIKE YOU HAVEN'T
ALREADY BEEN
THROUGH A MILLION
DIFFERENT SCRAPES
LIKE THIS. THE GOOD
GUYS ALWAYS WIN IN
THE END, RIGHT?

TELL THAT
TO MY UNCLE BEN.

WHAT?

NOTHING.
KEEP TRAINING.

THE PORTAL OPENING
MEANS AVENGERS ARE
COMING BACK FROM A
MISSION, OUT SEARCHING
FOR OUR TEAMMATES
WHO'VE BEEN TAKEN
PRISONER BY THE X-MEN.

NEVER ONCE SINCE WE CAME HERE
HAVE THEY COME BACK FROM A
MISSION WITH ANYTHING REMOTELY
RESEMBLING GOOD NEWS.

SMASH...
GONNA SMASH...
SO HARD...

MAYBE
NEXT TIME,
BIG GUY.

AND SOMETIMES...

THEY DON'T COME
BACK AT ALL.

WAIT, IS
THAT IT? THAT
CAN'T BE IT.
WHERE'S...

WE LOST
HIM.



"WE LOST
THOR."



YOU LOST... THOR? HOW DO YOU LOSE THOR?

YOU KNOW WE ONLY HAD ONE OF HIM, RIGHT?

A JOKE. THERE YOU GO. I'M SO DARNED PROUD OF MYSELF.

WE'RE GETTING KILLED OUT THERE. THE PHOENIX HOSTS ARE MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER. AND HALF OUR PEOPLE ARE EITHER LAID UP OR MISSING.

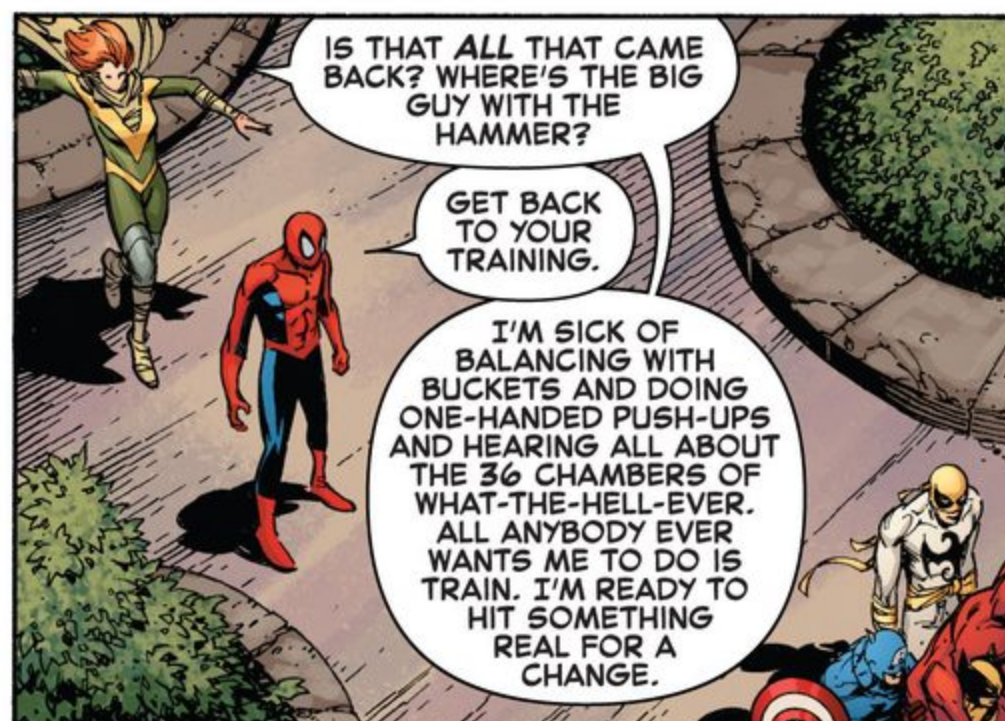
WHERE THE HELL IS TONY?



THE PHOENIX. WANDA'S HEX MAGIC. HOPE. THE IRON FIST. SOMEHOW IT ALL FITS TOGETHER...



SOMEHOW...



IS THAT ALL THAT CAME BACK? WHERE'S THE BIG GUY WITH THE HAMMER?

GET BACK TO YOUR TRAINING.

I'M SICK OF BALANCING WITH BUCKETS AND DOING ONE-HANDED PUSH-UPS AND HEARING ALL ABOUT THE 36 CHAMBERS OF WHAT-THE-HELL-EVER. ALL ANYBODY EVER WANTS ME TO DO IS TRAIN. I'M READY TO HIT SOMETHING REAL FOR A CHANGE.



IRON FIST SAYS YOU TRAIN, SO YOU TRAIN. ONE THING I'VE LEARNED BEING AN AVENGER...YOUR MOMENT WILL COME.

IT'S A BIG GROUP. LOTTA MOVING PARTS. LOTTA BIG AWESOME PEOPLE DOING BIG AWESOME THINGS. THEY DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TIME TO STOP AND TAKE A KNEE TO EXPLAIN TO YOU WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON.

YOU LEARN TO FOLLOW THE GUYS WHO ALWAYS SEEM TO KNOW WHERE THEY'RE HEADED.

AND YOU WAIT FOR YOUR MOMENT.



DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY GODS OR SUPER-SOLDIERS OR HULKS THEY GOT ON THE PAYROLL. ONCE YOU'RE AN AVENGER, IT NEVER FAILS...

SOONER OR LATER THE TIME COMES WHEN IT'S YOUR TURN TO STEP UP TO THE PLATE.

YOU JUST GOTTA MAKE SURE YOU'RE READY.



I AM READY. I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED ON THE MOON, BUT I KNOW I'M READY TO PROVE MY--

NO MORE QUESTIONS, DANIEL-SAN. WAX ON, WAX OFF. PAINT THE FENCE. SAND THE FLOOR. DON'T LET JOHNNY SWEEP THE LEG.

GOD HELP US ALL.



WE CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS.



TELL ME WE'RE MAKING SOME PROGRESS.

I WISH I COULD. STARK HASN'T LEFT HIS ROOM IN THREE DAYS. NO ONE'S SEEN THE BLACK PANTHER SINCE THE FALL OF WAKANDA. AND DESPITE TRAINING ALL DAY EVERY DAY, THE GIRL HOPE STILL ISN'T READY.

NOR DO WE EVEN FULLY UNDERSTAND WHAT WILL HAPPEN ONCE SHE--

YOU'RE SAYING YOU NEED MORE TIME, BUT WE DON'T HAVE IT. AT THIS RATE, WE WON'T MAKE IT ANOTHER WEEK. NOT WITH WHAT WE'VE GOT.

IF WE'RE GONNA KEEP FIGHTING...

"WE'VE GOT TO
FIND OUR MISSING
PEOPLE."

**RUSSIA.
THE VERKHOYANSK
MOUNTAINS. ONE
OF THE COLDEST
PLACES ON EARTH.**



WELCOME TO
SIBERIA, GOD
OF THUNDER.

"IT'S HAPPENING
TO ALL OF THEM
NOW, ISN'T IT?"



I THOUGHT
NAMOR WAS JUST
BEING NAMOR. BUT
NOW THEY'RE--DEAR
GOD, THEY'RE ALL
BEING **CORRUPTED**
BY THE PHOENIX,
AREN'T THEY?

DAMN IT, THIS
TIME WE WERE IN
THE **RIGHT**. WE WERE
ACTUALLY GONNA
REMAKE THE WORLD.
AND NOW WE'RE
THROWING AVENGERS
INTO VOLCANOES.
DAMN IT!

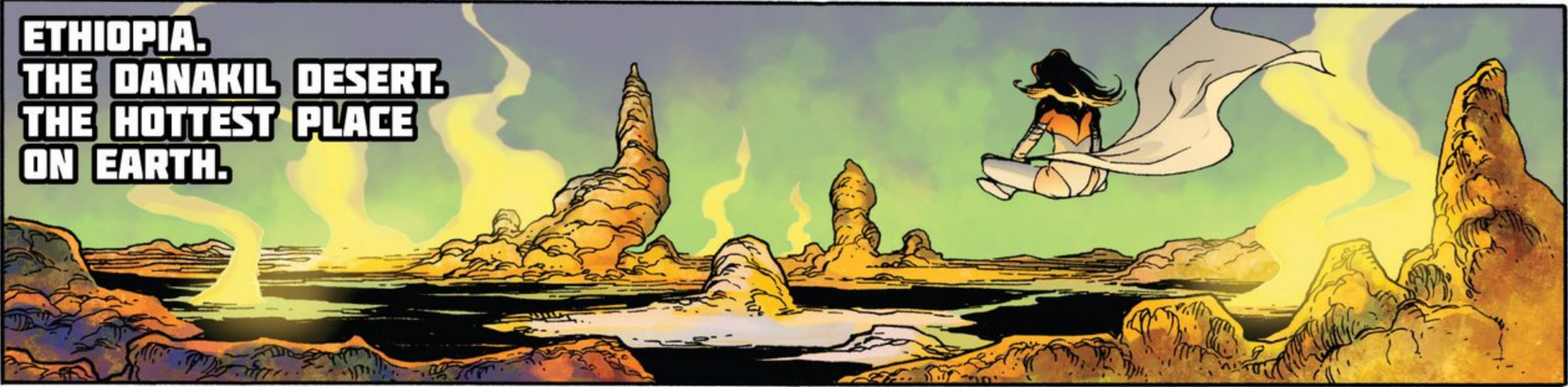
NOBODY'S SEEN
PROFESSOR XAVIER
FOR DAYS. AND I
HEAR MUTANTS ARE
ALREADY LEAVING
UTOPIA. SO WHAT
THE HELL ARE WE
SUPPOSED
TO DO?

YOU
SHOULD
LEAVE
TOO.



ALL OF
YOU SHOULD
LEAVE.

NOW.



LOVELY SPOT YOU PICKED FOR A MEETING, EMMA.

IT'S THE MOST INHOSPITABLE LAND I COULD FIND. NO OTHER MINDS AROUND FOR MILES. I ENJOY...THE QUIET.

WHY ARE WE HERE? SINCE NAMOR WENT ROGUE, EVERYTHING IS ON THE VERGE OF GOING TO HELL. I NEED YOU BACK AT UTOPIA, WITH ME.

I COULD END THIS ALL IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, SCOTT.



SINCE NAMOR FELL, SINCE WE RECEIVED HIS PORTION OF THE POWER, I'VE BEEN REACHING OUT, TOUCHING EVERY MIND ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH. INCLUDING THE AVENGERS.

I COULD REACH INSIDE THEIR HEADS RIGHT NOW AND SIMPLY TURN THEM OFF. JUST LIKE FLICKING A SWITCH. I THINK...

I THINK PART OF ME WANTS TO DO IT.



NOW YOU'RE SOUNDING LIKE NAMOR. THIS ISN'T A WAR. THEY WANT TO MAKE US LOOK LIKE THE BAD GUYS HERE, BUT WE'RE THE ONES WHO ARE CHANGING THE WORLD FOR THE BETTER.

THE AVENGERS WILL COME AROUND. WE WON'T GIVE THEM ANY OTHER CHOICE.



GET IT TOGETHER AND COME HOME, EMMA, AND LET'S FINISH WHAT WE STARTED.

I KNOW WHERE THEY'RE KEEPING HOPE.



WHAT DID YOU SAY?



I'VE BEEN PEEKING INSIDE SO MANY MINDS. AND SOME OF THE THINGS I'VE FOUND...

EMMA, FOCUS. WHERE IS SHE? WHERE'S HOPE?

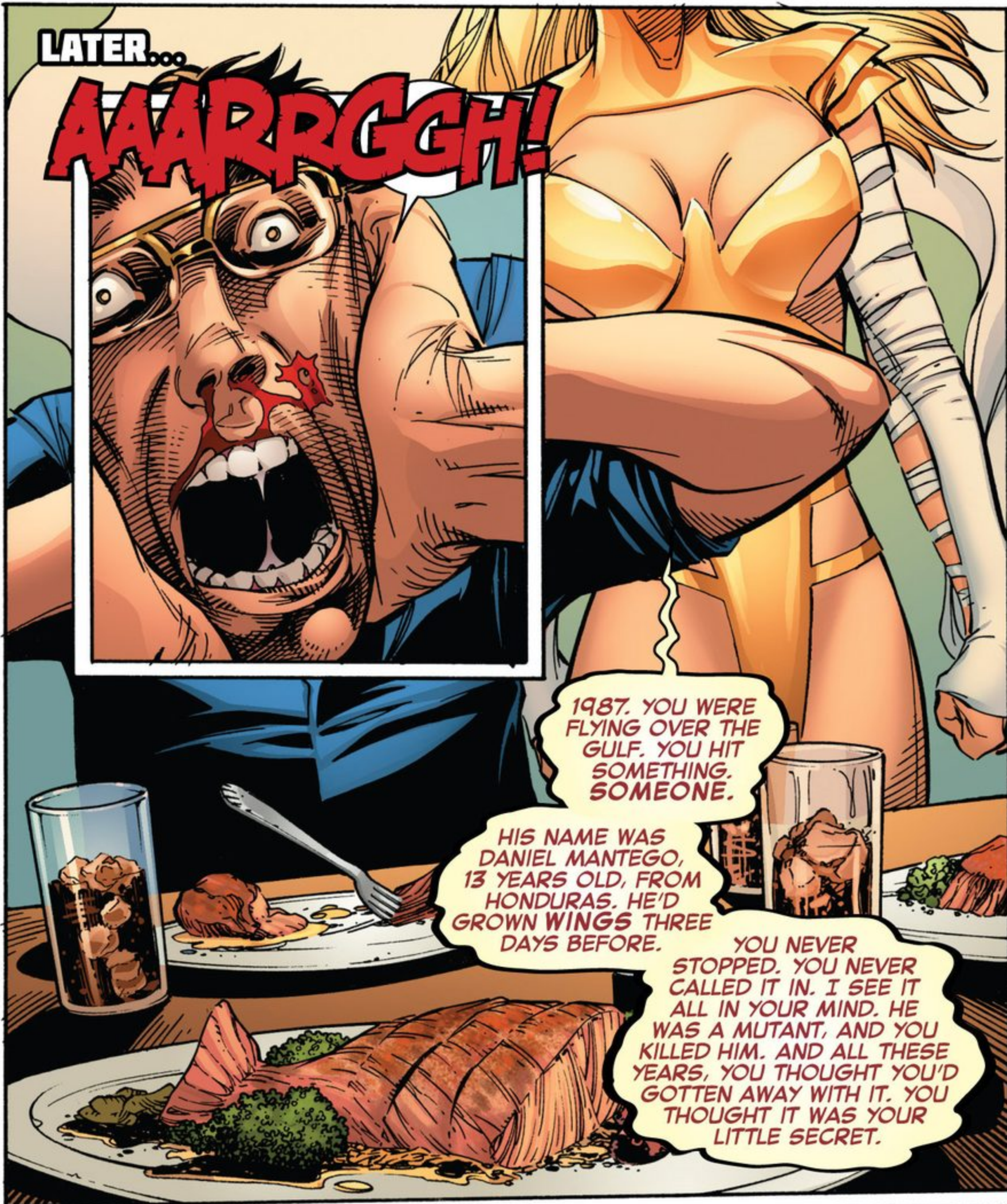
IT SOUNDS MADE UP, BUT APPARENTLY IT'S REAL. IT'S CALLED... K'UN LUN.



SCOTT, WAIT, DON'T GO...

I'M WORRIED ABOUT...

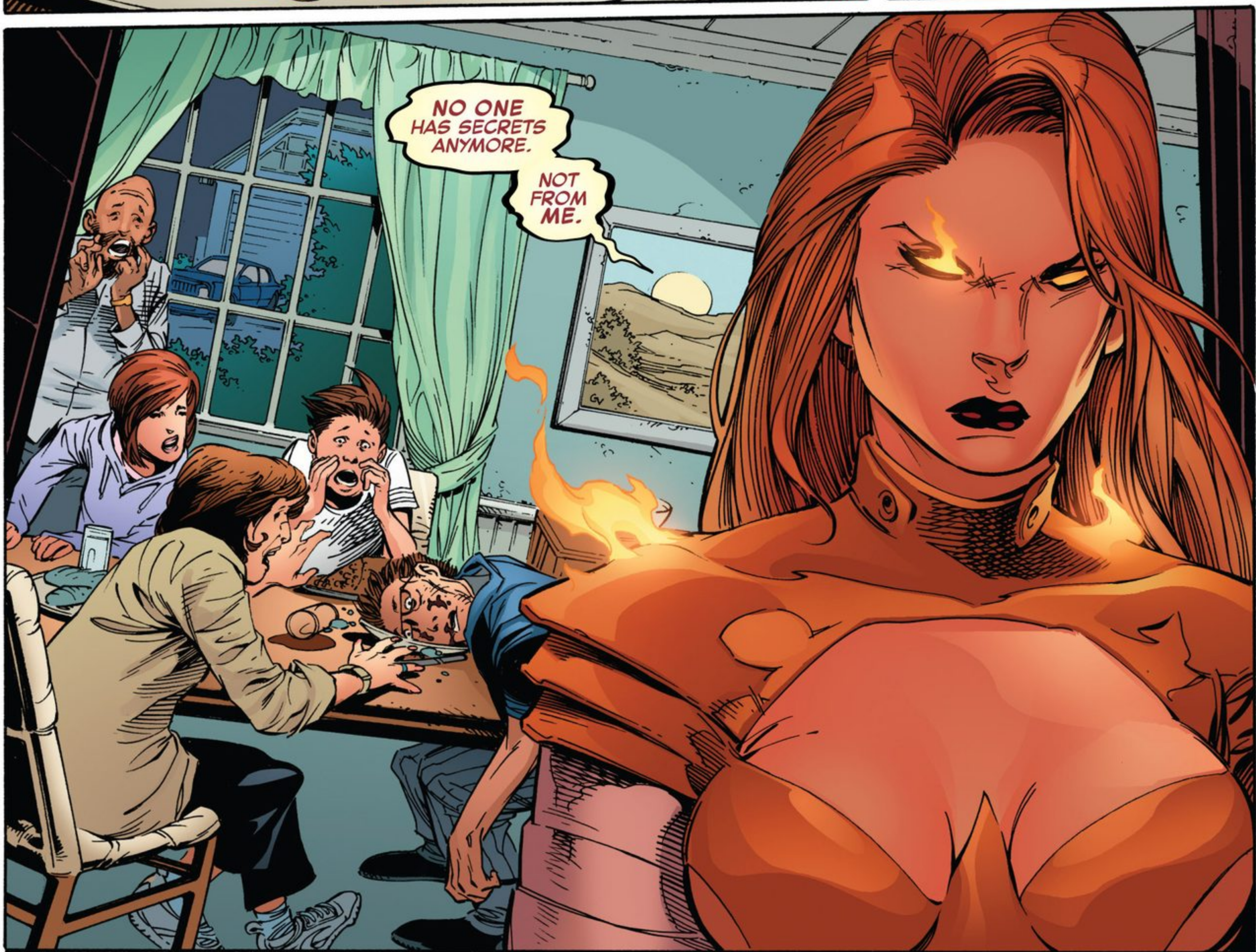




1987. YOU WERE FLYING OVER THE GULF. YOU HIT SOMETHING. SOMEONE.

HIS NAME WAS DANIEL MANTEGO, 13 YEARS OLD, FROM HONDURAS. HE'D GROWN WINGS THREE DAYS BEFORE.

YOU NEVER STOPPED. YOU NEVER CALLED IT IN. I SEE IT ALL IN YOUR MIND. HE WAS A MUTANT, AND YOU KILLED HIM. AND ALL THESE YEARS, YOU THOUGHT YOU'D GOTTEN AWAY WITH IT. YOU THOUGHT IT WAS YOUR LITTLE SECRET.



NO ONE HAS SECRETS ANYMORE.

NOT FROM ME.





"TELL THEM I
WANT TO *HELP*."



REMEMBER, WE'RE HERE TO
GRAB OUR PEOPLE AND GET
OUT. AVOID COMBAT IF AT
ALL POSSIBLE.

SO HOW DO
WE KNOW THIS
ISN'T A TRAP?

STORM
WOULDN'T SELL
US OUT LIKE THAT.



T'CHALLA, THANK YOU FOR
COMING. I PROMISE YOU,
ONCE THIS IS FINISHED, YOU'LL
HAVE ALL THE RESOURCES OF
THE AVENGERS TO HELP
REBUILD YOUR COUNTRY.

STARK HAD BETTER FIND A WAY
TO OPEN THAT RIGID LITTLE PEBBLE
HE CALLS A MIND AND FIND HIMSELF
SOME ANSWERS OUTSIDE OF SCIENCE,
OR WAKANDA WILL BE BUT
THE FIRST TO FALL.

PLEASE DO
TELL HIM I
SAID THAT.
LET'S GO.



SMELLS
LIKE HELL.
LITERALLY.

THIS VOLCANO
IS UNNATURAL. IT
IS TEAMING WITH
DEMONIC ENERGY.

AND
PHOENIX
FIRE.

THIS WAY,
AVENGERS.

EVERYBODY ELSE JUST
HEARD THAT TOO, RIGHT?



PROFESSOR
X?

WE
MUST MOVE
QUICKLY.



**CAPE DEZHNEV,
THE BERING
STRAIT.**

IT'S
HAPPENING.

THEY'RE COMING
FOR THEIR FRIENDS,
JUST LIKE I KNEW
THEY WOULD. WE
MUST HURRY TO
GREET THEM.

WHAT HAVE
YOU BEEN DOING
HERE, BROTHER?

I THOUGHT THE
WHALES MIGHT LIKE
IT IF I GAVE THEM LEGS.
BUT I'M AFRAID I FORGOT
THEY WEREN'T VERY GOOD
AT BREATHING
ON LAND.

FOR WHAT IT'S
WORTH, I LIKE
THEM BETTER
THIS WAY. LET
US GO.

AFTER
WE'RE DONE,
CAN YOU HELP
ME MAKE MORE
WHALES?

WE FOUND
THEM.

OH MY GOD,
ARE THEY EVEN
STILL ALIVE?

BARELY. THESE
CREATURES ARE
FEEDING ON THEIR
MINDS. PERHAPS
THEIR VERY
SOULS.

LET'S GET
THEM OUT OF
HERE. NOW.

I CANNOT OPEN
THE PORTAL TO
K'UN LUN IN THIS
PLACE. THERE IS
TOO MUCH DEMONIC
INTERFERENCE.

AND MY
TELEPORTATION
SPELLS ARE BEING
BLOCKED. WE'LL HAVE
TO CARRY THEM
OUT BY HAND.

UM...
GUYS?

WHO'S GONNA
CARRY US?



WE HAD THEM OUTNUMBERED ALMOST 5 TO 1. WE WERE FIGHTING WITH OUR BACKS TO THE WALL. BUT TRUTH BE TOLD...

WE NEVER STOOD A CHANCE.

THIS WAS GOING TO END JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHER MISSIONS. WHEN THAT PORTAL OPENED BACK AT K'UN LUN, ONLY **BAD NEWS** WAS GONNA STEP OUT OF IT.

PETER, ILLYANA, DON'T DO THIS. YOU'RE BETTER THAN--
OOF!

IF ANY OF US STEPPED OUT OF IT AT ALL.

THAT WAS THE FIRST THOUGHT THAT WENT THROUGH MY HEAD. BUT THEN I REMEMBERED SOMETHING I'D ONCE HEARD A VERY WISE MAN SAY...

ONCE YOU'RE AN AVENGER, IT NEVER FAILS, SOONER OR LATER THE TIME COMES WHEN IT'S YOUR TURN TO STEP UP TO THE PLATE.

JUST MAKE SURE YOU'RE READY.

TELL HOPE I MEANT WHAT I SAID.

WHAT?



GET EVERYBODY
OUT! I'LL HOLD THEM
OFF FOR AS LONG
AS I CAN!

DON'T BE
CRAZY! YOU
CAN'T--



HOLD US OFF?
HOW EXACTLY DO
YOU PLAN ON DOING
THAT, LITTLE
MAN?

WHY, THE
POWER OF
LAUGHTER,
OF COURSE!

KNOCK
KNOCK?



GAH. NOBODY
APPRECIATES
THE CLASSICS
ANYMORE.

**KRA-
KOO-
M**



STORM JUST
OPENED AN
EXIT. THIS
WAY!

MY GOD,
WOLVERINE,
THOSE CHAINS
ARE BURNING
YOUR--

JUST GET
THE DAMN
PORTAL
OPEN!



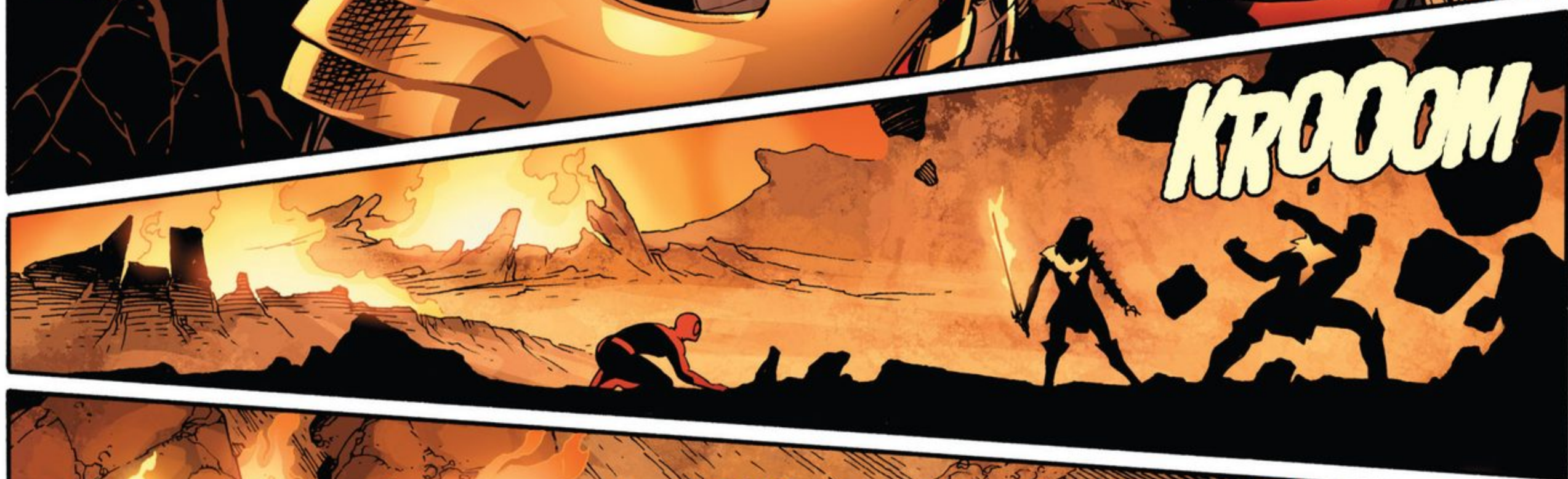
WHAM

GUH



THEY CAN'T
HAVE GOTTEN FAR.
WE'LL DRAG THEM
ALL BACK IN
CHAINS.

AND THE
HELL WORMS
WILL EAT WELL
TONIGHT.



KROOOM



HEY, WHERE
YOU GUYS GOING?
WE WERE JUST
STARTING TO GET
TO KNOW EACH
OTHER.

LET'S SEE,
YOU'RE BOTH
INTO SPELUNKING
AND BARBECUES
AND PUNCHING REALLY
HARD. I PREFER QUIET
DINNERS AND MOONLIGHT
STROLLS ALONG
THE HUDSON.



FWAASH



WHAM



CRIPPLE HIM AND BE DONE WITH IT.

STAY DOWN. I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU. I DON'T WANT TO HURT ANYONE.



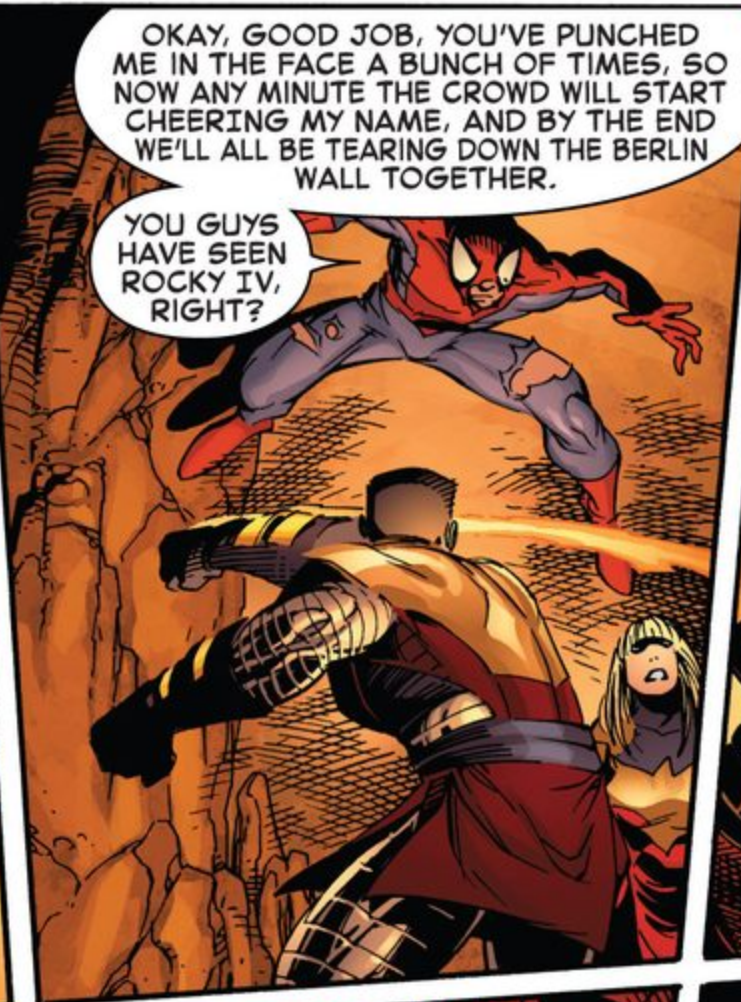
AT LEAST... I DON'T THINK I DO.

THAT DEFINITELY BROKE SOMETHING IN MY FACE. HURTS TO BREATHE. HURTS TO LIE STILL.



BUT STAYING DOWN IS NOT AN OPTION.

WHACK



OKAY, GOOD JOB, YOU'VE PUNCHED ME IN THE FACE A BUNCH OF TIMES, SO NOW ANY MINUTE THE CROWD WILL START CHEERING MY NAME, AND BY THE END WE'LL ALL BE TEARING DOWN THE BERLIN WALL TOGETHER.

YOU GUYS HAVE SEEN ROCKY IV, RIGHT?



HEY, NO SNEAKING OFF! THIS IS WHERE THE PARTY'S AT, AND I'M JUST GETTING--

WHACK



SPIDER-SENSE BUZZING NON-STOP. LIKE A MIGRAINE.

KRAK



WEB-SHOOTERS CRUSHED. SPINE BEGINNING TO FOLLOW.

GAARGH!



MASK FULL OF BLOOD. LEGS FEEL LIKE THEY'RE MADE OF MELTED CHEESE.

I SAID, STAY DOWN.

AFRAID I...CAN'T DO THAT.



YOU WILL, WHETHER YOU WANT TO OR NOT.



THWACK

THE GOOD NEWS IS, THE MIGRAINE STOPS. THE BAD NEWS...



EOM

I CAN'T FEEL MY HEAD AT ALL ANYMORE.



THIS IS PATHETIC. WHY DO YOU HOLD BACK, BROTHER? ALL THIS POWER AND YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE THE GUTS TO USE IT. FINISH HIM ALREADY, BEFORE I FINISH YOU BOTH!

PLEASE STOP SAYING SUCH THINGS, SISTER. YOU ARE BEGINNING TO WORRY ME.



I WORRY WHAT THIS POWER IS DOING TO YOU, ILLYANA. I WORRY THAT YOU ARE GIVING IN TO THE DARKNESS. PERHAPS YOU SHOULD LET ME CARRY THIS BURDEN FOR THE BOTH OF US.

YOU SIMPLE-MINDED CHILD! YOU BARELY KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH YOUR OWN POWER, LET ALONE--

I AM NOT A CHILD! I AM YOUR OLDER BROTHER! AND YOU WOULD DO WELL TO REMEMBER THAT LEST--

YOU WOULD DO WELL TO REMOVE YOUR HAND! I WILL NOT TELL YOU--



C'MON, GUYS, LET'S KEEP THIS CIVIL.



Fooooosh

AAARGGHH!



ALL THIS FIGHTING BETWEEN BROTHER AND SISTER IS JUST SO...COUGH SO UNSEEMLY. YOU GUYS...GOTTA LEARN TO GET ALONG.

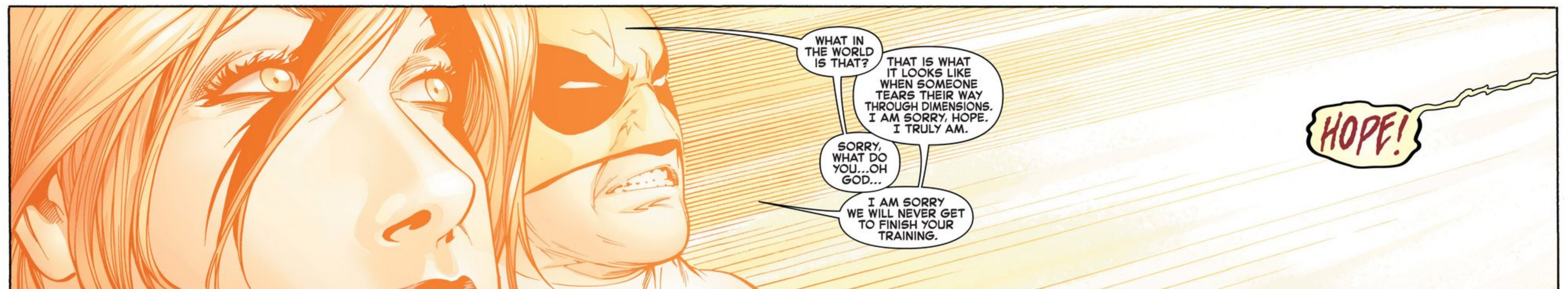


AFTER ALL, YOU BOTH KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF ONE OF YOU WAS TO FALL, RIGHT?



I'M SURE NEITHER OF YOU WANTS TO SEE THAT.

FAABOOM



TIME
TO COME
HOME.



**TO BE CONTINUED
IN TWO WEEKS...!**

AVS X

#10

COMING!



NOTICE THE **AR** ICON DURING AVENGERS VS. X-MEN #9?

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August 2012

MARVEL

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